

COLLEGE MISERICORDIA
DALLAS, PENNSYLVANIA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS CLUB

October 30, 1952

General Walter Bedell Smith
% Adjutant General
U.S. Army
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir,

Senator Joseph McCarthy in his broadcast attack on Governor Stevenson, on October 28, 1952, said,

... in the summer of 1943, after Mussolini's government had fallen, Stevenson was given the task of formulating America's post-war policy toward Italy... General Bedell Smith, head of the Central Intelligence Agency in his book, and on page 35 and 37 of his sworn testimony, told what that policy for Italy was--namely to "connive" to bring Communists into the Italian Government and to bring the Italian Communists leader, Togliatti, back from Moscow.

We have no idea what sworn testimony the Senator refers to. But we do have your book My three years in Moscow. On page 18 of your book in the chapter entitled Preface to Moscow, you state:


... Viewing events in retrospect, it is as easy now, as it was difficult then, to appreciate the nature of Soviet political aims in Italy. We of the West were determined to establish a democratic government with as broad a base as possible, and this made it easy

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for us to accept Communist participation in the Italian Government, and even to accept, and indeed to facilitate, the return of the Italian Communist leader, Palmior Togliatti, who had been in Moscow. Even had we been contrarily disposed, it would have been difficult to deny Communist participation in the Italian Government. Disciplined, militant Communist groups, particularly in the industrial areas of Northern Italy, had been the rallying point for Italian opposition to the Germans. The Communists were the hard core of the Partisan movement, and their initial participation in the reconstructed Italian Government was on a cooperative, collaborative basis.

Would it be infringing too much on your very valuable time to ask you to let us know if, in the light of these statements in your book, it could be true that in a sworn statement you intimated that Governor Stevenson, 'connived' to bring Communists into the Italian Government."

Very truly yours,


Corresponding Secretary
International Relations Club
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Dallas, Penna.